



«Джуниор Эчивмент Қазақстан» Қоғамдық қоры
«Junior Achievement Kazakhstan» PF
ОФ «Джуниор Эчивмент Казахстан»

Contact: Irina Entina, Junior Achievement
Tel/Fax: 8 (7172) 32 79 12
Mobile: 8 701 344 86 74
E-mail: director@junior.kz

PRESS RELEASE

With a National Student Tournament in Economics, Junior Achievement Kazakhstan Graduates from USAID Funding

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that after nearly 14 years of support, it ends financing for Junior Achievement and calls on local organizations to take over the sponsorship of its events. The announcement was made at a launch of the National Junior Achievement Student Tournament in Economics on March 24 in Almaty.

USAID has been supporting Junior Achievement since 1994, when the organization first came to the country. With USAID assistance, Junior Achievement programs have reached thousands of young people throughout Kazakhstan. In 2006-2007 school year alone, over 227,000 youth studied economics and business basics with Junior Achievement in more than 2,000 schools throughout all regions. The project developed, translated into the Kazakh language, and adapted to the local environment a range of teaching materials: Student Company, Management and Economics Simulation Exercise, Global Marketplace, Global Business Ethics, Banks in Action. Four of these program textbooks have been approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the use in senior grades of high school. Over 1000 teachers have been trained to teach these programs.

The National Student Tournament of Economics held on March 24-25 in Almaty is a culmination of Junior Achievement programs: Economics, Titan, and Banks in Action. Sixty students from 10-11 grades from all over the country will compete in their knowledge of economics. Winners will receive scholarships to study at the Kazakh British Technical University, the Kazakh Academy of Labor and Social Relations, the International Academy of Business, and Moscow school of business "MIRBIS".

At the launch of the National Junior Achievement Student Tournament in Economics, USAID's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Mark Ward said: "USAID firmly believes that the strength of the Junior Achievement contributions to developing future generation for Kazakhstan will enable this organization to attract sufficient local sponsorship for its programs. We have watched Junior Achievement Kazakhstan grow and become increasingly popular with the Kazakh youth over the years, and trust that it will continue from success to success in the future, drawing on the generous contributions from the local businesses."

The Chairman of the Junior Achievement Kazakhstan Board of Directors and the CEO of the Citibank Kazakhstan Daniel Connelly thanked USAID for its contributions to the organization and expressed hope that new businesses will join the ranks of sponsors for Junior Achievement programs, so that youth have an opportunity to continue learning the economics and entrepreneurship at school.

Junior Achievement is one of the many programs supported by the American people through USAID in Kazakhstan. Since 1992, USAID has brought over \$500 million in programs that assist Kazakhstan's economy, healthcare, and democratic institutions.

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